

Nevada State Medical Association

Nevada State Medical Association News—Post-Card Bulletin, No. 1, Vol. 5 of the association says:

"Well, here we are again after two months of silence during which time 'ye editor has been galivanting all over the United States—and part of West Virginia. There is a song which states that 'The longest way round is the shortest way home,' but we have found that shipping our goods from Goldfield to Reno by way of New York City is certainly not the cheapest. Your secretary suffered some kind of a brainstorm, the first of December, thought he wanted to live in N'Yawk, and didn't know any better until he got there and took a couple of looks, but now he knows that there is no place like the land of the west, with its sand and sagebrush. We promise to be good from now on, and hope to soon make up for lost time. Our new president has made the committee appointments for the year, and we will try to get them in the next issue, but we want to use most of this on legislative matters. There are three bills, so far, of special interest to the medical profession: one to repeal the present State dry law so that an entire new Act can be passed, a bill to ratify the Sheppard-Towner Act, and a bill to regulate the practice of nursing. There is also a chiropractic bill, of which you will hear more later. Get after your legislators to defeat the bill to ratify the Sheppard-Towner Act, and make it strong. We object to the bill on the following grounds: (1) There is no real need of such legislation in Nevada, as the maternity situation is being well taken care of. (2) The bill does not provide any material relief for mother or child, and certainly does not provide the relief that the women of the country ask for. (3) It is socialistic and paternalistic in character, precedentting government control. (4) Its ratification will enforce a double tax; Federal tax and then State tax. (5) It is an Act of fines and rewards, with unequal distribution of tax moneys. (6) It is simply an appropriation measure which will spend a considerable amount of money in giving easy jobs to propagandists, who use sympathetic promises to further their own interests. (7) The application of the law will require the services of a number of nurses, and we all know how hard it is to get a real nurse now without having any more of them tied up in public work. Get busy and do all that you can, and do it now. We are now ready to receive dues and you can address us as follows: Dr. Horace J. Brown, Sec'y, No. 14, Thoma-Bigelow building, Reno, Nev. We will send out statements to everybody as soon as possible. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year (even if it is a little late)."

Nevada Medical Bulletin, Reno, Nev., January 15, 1923—As this delayed edition goes to press the Legislature is in full swing, and you can take it from us that when it comes to swinging a nasty club those legislators are the duck's quack. Our special committee that conferred with the committee from the Nurses' Association, and our Judiciary Committee labored hard and finally brought forth a nurses' registration bill that seemed absolutely fair to all concerned, and we all felt sure that it had a good chance to pass, but they wouldn't even let us talk to them about it. They hauled it out of committee one quiet afternoon, shoved it into the abattoir, and the next we knew it was hanging on a hook with its nose shiny and its hat on crooked. However, it has been reintroduced in the Assembly and we hope it will receive more consideration. If you can do anything to help, please do so at once, and no matter how you feel about it the secretary would like to hear from you in

regards to it. The nurses surely deserve to have some kind of a law that will keep absolute impostors from infringing on their rights. It looks now as if the Legislature will adopt the Volstead law as the law of the State, which is very satisfactory to us, so do not fail to write your legislators to vote for it. The Judiciary Committee of our Association has had introduced in the Senate a bill providing for the establishment of a public general hospital in such counties as desire (and vote for) one. Its purpose is to provide ample facilities for the sick and disabled, and such hospitals will be open to every regular physician. If passed it will allow Elko County to legally use to full advantage its beautiful new hospital, and it is probable that Washoe County will petition for a vote to give them an ample, modern institution that will be recognized by the A. C. S. and A. M. A. We sent out statements a few days ago, and a few of our members have responded with the necessary check to cover dues, but the great mass are evidently still paying Christmas bills—or else they are too busy to write checks. We are sorry to note that a few are so far in arrears that we will have to drop them from our rolls unless they pay up before March 1. We don't want to lose any, so if you happen to be one of the tardy ones shake the baby's bank and let's hear from you. When do you want the annual meeting, June or October?

"Big Noises."—Bruno Lessing, (San Francisco "Examiner") philosophizes about "Big Noises" in the law, the church and in medicine.

"Empty vessels sound the loudest. The big bass drum can make more noise than the violin or the cello. One cow eats more than a hundred nightingales.

"These are the reflections of thinking people when they behold the clamoring notoriety-seeker trying to attract attention to himself. As a rule the man who mounts to the housetop and shouts, 'I am the greatest in my line,' is merely an object of ridicule. The exception to the rule, however, appears when people believe him and ultimately pay for being disillusioned.

"When Dr. Quackus tells the world that he can cure tuberculosis, cancer and rheumatism he attracts attention. Thousands flock to him. He becomes famous overnight. Unfortunately very few ever hear of the ultimate fate of those thousands. They are never cured by Dr. Quackus.

"The great physician does not yell aloud. He does not advertise. He doesn't arouse false hopes. He is not a bass drum.

"It is exactly the same in every other line of human endeavor. Counselor Shyster, whose name appears in the public press every day, in connection with everything that is going on, is never the best lawyer. A really good lawyer—leaving dignity aside—is too busy with his cases to rush into print.

"The Rev. Dr. Cockroach is not a great clergyman. Rabbi Wischeimer is not a great rabbi. These people are politicians, to an extent, devoting to their self-aggrandizement the time that they should devote to pious thoughts and deeds of charity.

"Every newspaper reporter will corroborate this fact; the greater and abler the physician, the lawyer or the preacher, the more reluctant he is to grant an interview—and, the more of a charlatan he is, the more eagerly will he talk.

"The trouble comes when ignorant souls, in distress, seek the counsel of such people. How can they find a really able physician or lawyer or divine? What can be done to steer them away from these self-inflated names that attract them?

"It is a problem that has bothered many an intellectual mind. What solution would you suggest?"

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